

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claims 12 and 22, have been amended to yet more clearly define the present invention. The Examiner's suggestion for amending claims 12 and 22 is gratefully appreciated.

Claims 1-11 are canceled. Claims 12-22 are pending.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Streubel et al., WO 02/090 019 (with the corresponding U.S. Patent No. 7,025,118 used as a translation).

It is respectfully submitted that claims 12-22 are patentable over Streubel et al.

Specifically, claim 12 recites a method including the steps of indirectly measuring a movable amount of a core liquid volume by direct measurement of generated process parameters on fixed or adjustable individual support rollers (6a) or groups (7) of fixed or adjustable support roller pairs (7a) with signal transmitters

(10) which generate respective force and/or path signals which represent continuously changeable temporary positions of the solidification point in the cast strand produced by a continuous movement of the solidification to different locations along an entire solidification stretch during casting of the cast strand.

As indicated by the Examiner, Streubel et al. does not disclose that the solidification point continuously moves, during casting, to different location along the solidification stretch. While in Streubel, the solidification point may change its position as a result of changing the force on the rollers, its location in the SR stretch remains substantially constant.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Streubel et al. does not anticipate or makes obvious the present invention as defined by claim 12, and claim 12 is patentable over Streubel et al. and is allowable.

Claims 13-21 depend on claim 12 and are allowable by the same reason claim 12 is allowable and further because of specific features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with those of claim 12, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

Claim 22 recites an apparatus for affecting the method of claims 12-21 and is allowable for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alexander Zinchuk/  
Alexander Zinchuk, Reg. No. 30,541

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Abelman, Frayne & Schwab  
666 Third Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017-5621  
212-885-9383